ADVISORY AND OVERSIGHT GROUP | August 12, 2024

Welcome!

Victoria-Saanich Citizens' Assembly on Municipal Amalgamation

VICTORIA SAANICH CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY

victoriasaanich.ca

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Introductions
Review of Assembly's mandate & process

2. Review of Project Summer Activities
Member confirmation and onboarding
Venue and logistics
Technical Study preparation
Public submissions process (Sept)
Public meetings (Nov)
Program development

3. Program Review
Curriculum, Objectives & Speakers for Sessions 1 and 2

4. Next steps
Opening session, Sept 21: Your attendance is welcome but optional

Next Advisory Group meeting: Monday, Sept 30, 2024, 6-7pm PT

Victoria-Saanich Citizens' Assembly

The Assembly is mandated by the District of Saanich and the City of Victoria to explore the costs, benefits and disadvantages of the amalgamation between the District of Saanich and the City of Victoria.

Specifically, the Assembly will:

a. Identify common aspirations for good local governance to provide a basis for evaluating costs, benefits and disadvantages of amalgamation and status quo of the municipalities relative to their current independent status.

b. List the issues which the Assembly believes needs to be resolved for amalgamation to merit consideration, including issues related to the implementation and integration of the municipalities under amalgamation.

After weighing the evidence and considering what it believes are the best interests of both municipalities, the Assembly will strive to achieve a consensus recommendation on whether and under what conditions the municipalities should amalgamate. The recommendations could also include suggestions for service integration.

The Assembly's Nine Principles

- Openness and Transparency
- Accountability and Legitimacy
- Effective Representation
- Accessibility
- Independence
- Well-Informed
- Balance
- Collaborative Decision-Making
- Respect

The Advisory and Oversight Group (1)

The role of the Advisory and Oversight Group is to provide advice to to the Assembly Chair concerning the process the Assembly will follow and its curriculum. It will also respond to any concerns from Assembly members related to the conduct and impartiality of the Assembly itself.

The group includes members with expertise related to municipal governance, community engagement and volunteerism, the region's history and geography, historically underrepresented communities, and/or public administration.

The Advisory and Oversight Group (2)

The Advisory and Oversight Group will review the Assembly's proposed curriculum and consider the range of presentations that will occur.

The Group should be confident that the Assembly process is sensitive to the local context and that Assembly members will gain a reasonable understanding of the issues related to any potential amalgamation between the municipalities.

They should also ensure that the members will have the opportunity to hear from a range of stakeholders who offer different perspectives.

Project Updates and Timelines

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Key dates

Sept 21	Jan 11
Oct 19	Feb 8
Nov 2	Mar 8
Nov 21	Apr 5

Four public roundtable meetings will also be scheduled, where residents can meet and converse with members of the assembly. The first two are November 21 (confirmed at Crystal Gardens, Victoria) and November 26 (online, tentative date). The second round of public meetings will be held in February 2025.
Other key dates:

Dec 2024:	Interim Report
Jan 2025:	Technical Study Report
Jun 2025:	Final Report delivered to Councils

Assembly Selection

June 3	**Selected by Civic Lottery**
June 4-17	**Onboarding**
June 10-30	**Interviews and profiles**
June 24-July 15	**Re-selections**

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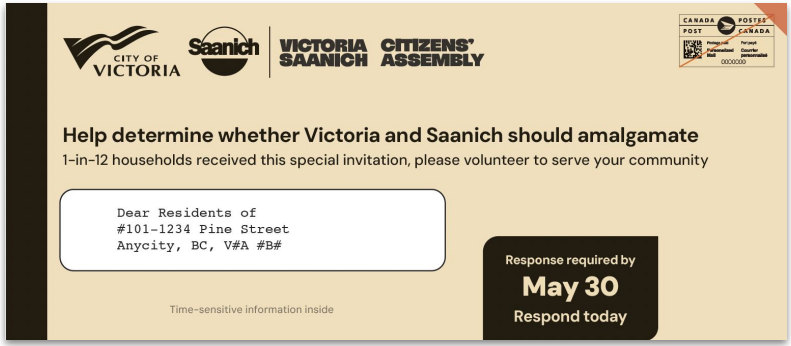

The Civic Lottery was stratified to ensure that the Citizens' Assembly broadly matches the demography of Victoria and Saanich. Given the differences in population, 27 seats on the Assembly will be reserved for Saanich residents and 21 seats will be reserved for Victoria residents. The Civic Lottery also weighed factors like **gender, age, local geography and housing status**, as well as ensuring broad diversity and the participation of Indigenous residents.

10,000 Invitations
1,500 Reminder Calls
6 hours of phone calls

306 **Yes** Responses
275 Requests for future information

48 Assembly Members Selected
11 Reselections (due to selectees no longer able to commit or having a conflict)

	Pool	StatsCan	Rep. Model	Assembly
GENDER				
Man	160	25	23	24
Woman	104	23	23	23
Open	3	<1	2	1
AGE				
16 to 29	21	10	10	7
30 to 44	64	11	11	13
45 to 64	94	14	14	16
65+	88	13	13	12
POPULATION GROUP				
White	223	36	34	34
Racialized	38	10	10	10
FNMI	6	2	4	4
HOME OWNERSHIP				
Owns	192	26	25	27
Rents	66	20	20	19
Subsidized	9	2	2	2
Write-in	-	-	1	-

	Pool	StatsCan	Rep. Model	Assembly
DISTRICT OR MUNICIPALITY				
Saanich	155	27	27	27
Victoria	112	21	21	21
NEIGHBOURHOOD				
James Bay | Downtown | Fairfield	40	-	6	6
Victoria West | Burnside/Gorge | North Park	14	-	5	5
Hillside/Quadra | Oaklands | Fernwood	36	-	6	6
Jubilee | Rockland | Gonzales	21	-	4	4
Cordova Bay | Royal Oak | Blenkinsop	28	-	5	5
Saanich Core | Quadra | Shelbourne	42	-	7	7
Tillicum | Carey | North Quadra	44	-	7	7
Gordon Head | Cadboro Bay	32	-	6	6
Rural Saanich	10	-	2	2

VICTORIA SAANICH CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY

Assembly Members:

Samuel Ashley
Adam Atkinson
Brenna Atnikov
Sarvjit Bedi
Sarah Begin
Daniele Behn Smith
Mackenzie Berry
William Birney
Bill Broadley
Edward Chang
Jennifer Chown
Ana Cortes
Fabrizio Cross
Alli Deelstra
Houtan Emad
Kaitlyn Engholm
Peter Flagg
Justin Gammon
Laura Gramada
Ava Hagreen Leblond
Lara Hayward
David Hill
Geraldine Hinton
Kyle Hyndman
Janet Kirsop
Jerry Krepakevich
Sandra Letts
Noah Ma
Camille Mallari
Nora McMillan
Mike Mullins
Richard A Mitchell
Lynda Nguyen
Perpetua Nwosu
Daniel Perrakis
Gary Richardson
Rolf Seuster
Jeremy Sewall
Adam Sherk
Cameron Slack
Jordan Smith
Mary C Stocks
Sarah Todd
David Vázquez Covarrubias
Bella Xu
Brandon Yen

Sample Profiles (Full profiles at victoriasaanich.ca/member-profiles)

I'm **Alli D.**, a lifelong Saanich resident and new mom. Passionate about conservation and community, I volunteer with the BC Wildlife Federation and Island Rangers Society. I work as an accountant and am pursuing my CPA. I love the balance of rural and urban life in Saanich.

I'm **Gary R.**, originally from Victoria, and I returned a decade ago to care for my mother. Retired from accounting and real estate, I now volunteer with hospice care and enjoy local activities. I'm keen to learn about amalgamation through the Assembly.

I'm **Lara H.** a UVic law school graduate working in Oak Bay. I love Victoria's community-centered nature. Passionate about civic engagement, I joined the Assembly to contribute to the region's future and learn about urban planning.

I'm **Nikki B.** and I emigrated from Punjab, India, to Victoria in 1975. A retired restaurateur, I am passionate about city affairs and democratic participation. I joined the Assembly to engage in local governance and contribute to community betterment.

I'm **Perpetua N.**, a family doctor who moved to Victoria from England in 2020. Originally from Nigeria, I've lived and worked in multiple countries, including Zambia, where I volunteered in a rural hospital. That experience remains one of the most fulfilling experiences of my career. I joined the Assembly to engage with the community and help shape our city's future.

I'm **Mary S.**, and I've lived in Greater Victoria for 23 years. I'm a retired social worker with 35 years of experience, primarily in mental health and addictions. My strong family ties to the area and my passion for community issues motivated me to join the Assembly.

I'm **Adam S.,** and I've been living in Saanich for 12 years. Originally from Ontario, I am a public health researcher with a keen interest in local civic issues. I live on a small farm in Saanich with my wife and two young sons. I enjoy hiking and playing soccer in my leisure time.

Assembly Member Pledge

- Commit in good faith to the priorities of the Assembly, approaching the role with a spirit of public service.
- Attend all Assembly sessions.
- Treat fellow Assembly members with respect and consideration.
- Maintain the confidentiality of Assembly discussions.
- Represent the views and interests of all residents of Victoria and Saanich impartially.

Venues confirmed

Fall 2024 Venues:	Camosun College
Session 1:	CTEI, Interurban Campus
Session 2-4:	Sherri Bell Hall, Lansdowne Campus

We expect Winter/Spring 2025 sessions to be held at Esquimalt Gorge Pavilion

Technical Study is underway

Following a competitive tender, MASS selected the firm MNP to conduct the technical study, as mandated by the project's terms of reference. MNP conducted an RFI with the municipalities and is currently preparing its initial analysis and table of contents to present to the Assembly in Session 2.

The role of the Technical Study is to:

- Define the current state and determine the costs, benefits and disadvantages of amalgamation and provide opportunities for consideration.
- Provide a comprehensive, well-supported report of findings of the amalgamation study as well as engaging brief and long presentations for various audiences.
- Work with MASS LBP, the administrative officials of both communities, and the Citizens' Assembly to develop the scope and study elements for this work that will meet the expectations of officials and citizens.

MNP Technical Report Draft outline

Background and Purpose
Local Government in BC Overview
Goals/Aims & Documented Issues
Study Method and Report

Geography
Boundary Map
Population

Financial Overview
Property Taxation
Revenues and Expenditures
Capital Assets and Projects
Debts
Other Considerations (if present)

Municipal Administration and Services
General Government
Planning and Development Services
Protective and Emergency Services
Environmental Health
Parks and Recreation Services
Social Support Services
Other Considerations (if present)

Financial Impacts
Potential Annual Impacts to an Amalgamated Municipality
Potential One-Time Implementation Expenses
Overview of Adjusted General Municipal Tax Rates
Potential Property Tax Impacts on Representative Properties
Other Considerations (if present)

Regional District Impacts (CRD)
Representation
Services Differences (if any)
Other Considerations (if present)

Key considerations noted during study
Naming
Community
Governance
Transition Process
Community Vision, Planning, and Development
Social and Environmental Issues
Disadvantages and Advantages
Other Considerations (if present)

Project Summer Activities

PREPARING FOR PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS & PUBLIC MEETINGS

In September we will launch a Public Submissions process whereby individual members of the public, civic associations and groups may make written submissions for the Assembly to consider.

In November, the first two of four Public Meetings will take place. The purpose of the public meetings is to invite the public to meet the Assembly members, learn about the process and issues the Assembly is considering, and help ensure the public feels confident and included in the Assembly's work.

Program Development

The project team is currently developing the program and curriculum, including learning objectives, activities, and speaker ideas.

Our goal is to finalize the curriculum and speakers for Sessions 1 and 2 **this week**.

The program for Sessions 3-4 and the Public Meetings will be presented to the Advisory Group at our September meeting.

Three-track curriculum design

Subject knowledge
Process knowledge
Personal and group skills

Program Overview

Schedule programmer (Pacific Standard)

MANDATE

- Presentation by external person or experts
- Presentation by Chair
- Activity or discussion for members
- MEAL
- Field trip

	SESSION 1: September 21, 2024	SESSION 2: October 19, 2024	SESSION 3: November 2, 2024	PUBLIC MEETING Nov 20/21	SESSION 4: November 30, 2024	SESSION 5: January 11, 2025	SESSION 6: February 8, 2025	PUBLIC MEETING TBD	SESSION 7: March 8, 2025	SESSION 8: April 5, 2025
	The Atrium at CTEL Camosun College Interurban Camp	*Sherri Bell Hall, Camosun College Lansdown Campus*	*Sherri Bell Hall, Camosun College Lansdown Campus*	*[Location]*	*Sherri Bell Hall, Camosun College Lansdown Campus*	*[Location]*	*[Location]*	*[Location]*	*[Location]*	*[Location]*
7:00										
7:15										
7:30										
7:45										
8:00										
8:15										
8:30	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST		BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST		BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST
8:45										
9:00	Welcome!	Welcome Back: Opening Circle								
9:15	Territory Acknowledgment + Mayors Intro	Recap: Last time on VSCA								
9:30	Opening Circle: - Standing map - Introductions	The work of local government Infrastructure, services, planning	Welcome Back: Opening Circle		Welcome Back: Opening Circle	Welcome Back: Opening Circle	Welcome Back: Opening Circle		Welcome Back: Opening Circle	Welcome Back: Opening Circle
9:45			Recap: Last time on VSCA		Recap: Last time on VSCA	Recap: Last time on VSCA	Recap: Last time on VSCA		Recap: Last time on VSCA	Recap: All of VSCA
10:00			Perspective Panel: Victoria leaders in conversation - Incl FN leader		Field Trip #1: Rural Zone	Presentation: Technical Report - with Q+A	Economic Perspective Panel: Business sector leaders from Victoria and Saanich in conversation		Report-back from public meetings consider public submissions and identifying a preferred scenario	
10:15	Overview of Process and Mandate: What it is -- and what it isn't.	Q&A								Discussion: TBD
10:30		Q&A								
10:45	MORNING BREAK	MORNING BREAK	MORNING BREAK		MORNING BREAK	MORNING BREAK	MORNING BREAK		MORNING BREAK	MORNING BREAK
11:00	Member-generated Agreement: Social styles and how we work together	Discussion: Consolidate Values	Perspective Panel: Saanich leaders in conversation - Incl FN leader		Field Trip #1: Rural Zone	Discussion/Speakers TBD	Discussion/Speakers TBD		Ask Me Anything Q+A	Report writing
11:15										
11:30	Did you know? Critical Thinking Activity Skill building for good questioning	Understanding Municipal Finances								
11:45										
12:00		Q&A	Q&A							
12:15		Q&A								
12:30	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH		LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH		LUNCH	LUNCH
12:45										
13:00	Victoria & Sannich: History, People, Culture Pre-colonial history; Municipal History	CRD	Discussion: Issues		Report-back from public meetings Review public submissions	Discussion/Speakers TBD	Discussion: Priorities		Discussion: Considerations and Scenarios	Report writing - cont'd
13:15		Q&A								
13:30		Q&A								
13:45	Q&A									
14:00	Q&A	Discussion: Issues			Considerations for next public meetings					
14:15										
14:30	AFTERNOON BREAK	AFTERNOON BREAK	AFTERNOON BREAK		AFTERNOON BREAK	AFTERNOON BREAK	AFTERNOON BREAK		AFTERNOON BREAK	AFTERNOON BREAK
2:45 PM	What is Amalgamation? History, Meaning & Alternative Approaches	Technical Study Presentation: Table of contents	Discussion: Issues - cont'd		Municipal Plans Similarities and Differences	Discussion/Speakers TBD	Discussion: Scenarios		Discussion: Considerations and Scenarios - cont'd	Presentation of Recommendations
3:00 PM	Q&A	Q&A w/ tech study team								
3:15 PM	Q&A	Other areas for consideration			Emergency Services					
3:30 PM	Discussion: Values									
3:45 PM			Prep for Public Meetings				Prep for Public Meetings			
4:00 PM					Q&A					
4:15 PM	Things to consider before the next session	Things to consider before the next session	Things to consider before the next session		Things to consider before the next session	Things to consider before the next session	Things to consider before the next session		Things to consider before the final session	Closing Circle
4:30 PM	END OF SESSION 1 - 1630 PST	END OF SESSION 2 - 1630 PST	END OF SESSION 3 - 1630 PST		END OF SESSION 4 - 1630 PST	END OF SESSION 5 - 1630 PST	END OF SESSION 6 - 1630 PST		END OF SESSION 6 - 1630 PST	END OF VSCA
4:45 PM										
5:00 PM										
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6:00 PM										
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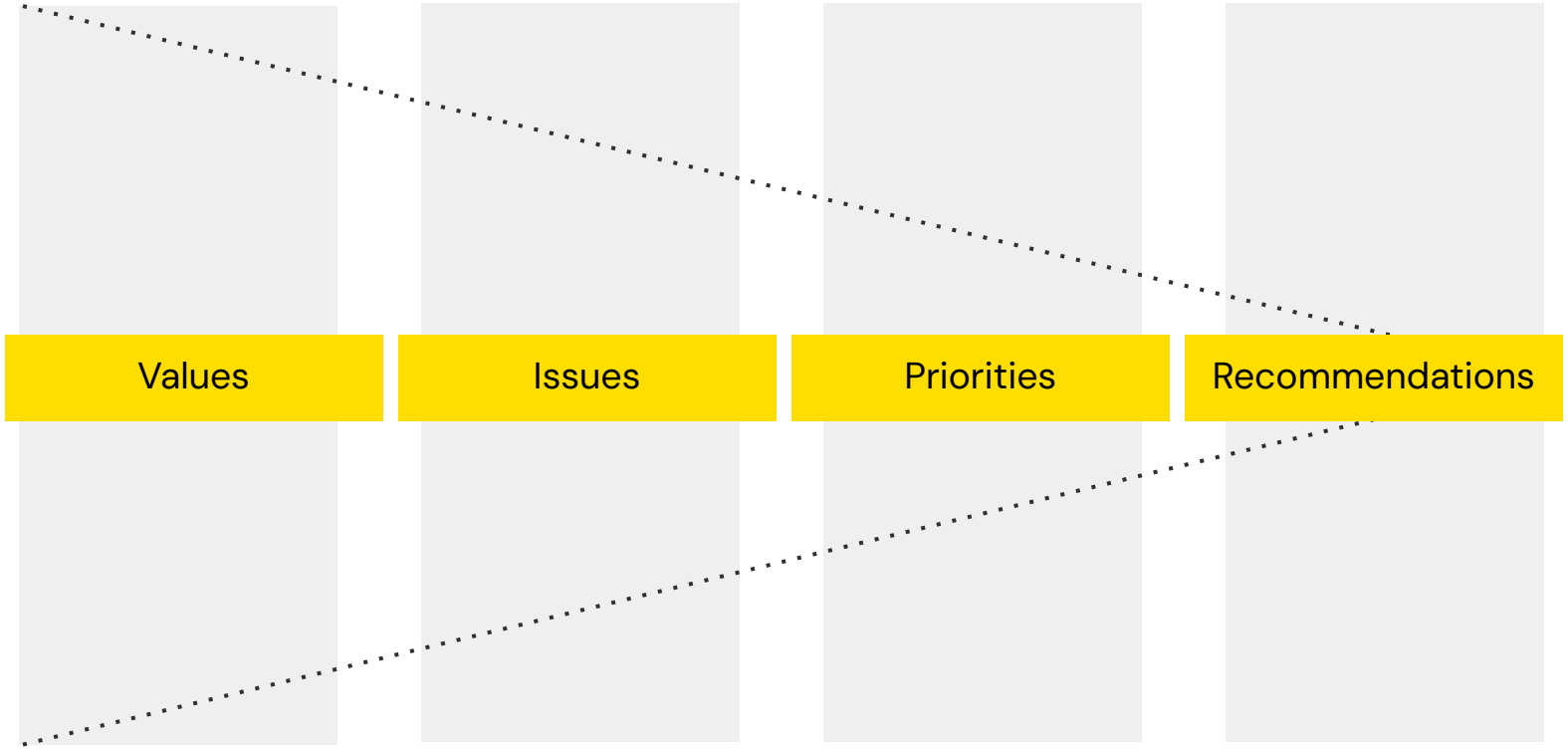
8:00 PM										

Inside the Assembly: VIPR



Program Review: Sessions 1-2

(See Program Curriculum doc)

Questions for the group:

1. Do we have reasonable expectations of what speakers can deliver and Assembly members can learn?
2. Are the learning elements comprehensive? Are there any gaps or omissions? How is the balance of perspectives?
3. Are there other recommendations for speakers we should consider?
4. Other considerations?

Next Steps and Questions

Next Steps
Session 1 of the Assembly is Saturday, September 21 beginning at 9 a.m. at Camosun College, Interurban Campus, at the Atrium of the Centre for Trades, Education and Innovation. An opening ceremony featuring a territorial acknowledgement and remarks from both mayors will inaugurate the Assembly, followed by member introductions and warm-up activities.
You are very welcome to attend and observe.

Next Advisory Group meeting: Monday, Sept 12, 2024, 6-7pm PT

FIDE Case Study

Marjan to present overview of the case study proposal

Thank you!

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